THE SURF PINES STORY

The Surf Pines Story had its beginning in 1935. President Roosevelt was in office and the newly created Civilian Conservation Corp was looking for worth while projects to put boys and young men to work on.

Clatsop County, Oregon had a tremendous project that had been deemed hopeless by the experts. ~~Once lush pasture land, it~~ a fifteen mile strip of ocean frontage had turned into a living moving mass of blowing sand that was gradually moving inland from the ocean. There was no apparent way to stop the billions of yards of sand that moved inland every year with the winter storms.

When the C.C.C. moved into the area it had ~~expanded~~ enlarged from North of Gearhart to Hammond ~~almost twenty miles~~ and in some places had crept inland over a mile from the ocean.

Hundreds of young men were moved into the district and camps were established to take care of these raw recruits, mostly city boys from the Eastern Seaboard that had never been off a paved street in their lives.

The first few years saw very little physical progress as there was no known or proven ~~method~~ way of combating these tremendous forces of Nature on the move such a menace. Many methods were tried and discarded. A ray of hope finally entered the picture when certain grasses were discovered that thrived in the moving sands. Holland grass, imported from Holland, and Sea Lime grass was the answer. After that it was a matter of man power and time. Once stabilized the dune area was planted to sctoch broom and pine trees.

This stupendous soil conservation program ground to a halt over night with the bombing of Peal Harbor. The C.C.C. went out of existence as suddenly as it was born. Boys that were digging a hole to plant a tree one day were digging a fox hole the next. Thus ended the first stage of the Surf Pines Story.

The second part of the Surf Pines Story is relatively quiet and orderly. During the war years a planting program was maintained by the State of Oregon. This consisted on the most part of plantings of sctoch broom and pine trees where the sand was still moving.

Many other changes were beginning to take place during these war years. Pasture grasses began to make a reappearance. Game that had fled the area began to creep back. Small winter lakes re-established themselves that had been given up for lost. These lakes had always been ideal breeding grounds for ducks.

The third phase of the Surf Pines story had its beginning in the Fall of 1945. Howard Leighton, then postmaster of Seaside, Oregon and a realtor on the side, offered Barney Lucas, a develope of Coast property, an eighty acre tract in the still blowing dune area. Lucas bought first and looked afterwards and came to the conclusion that the land would not be ready for any type of development for years and that it was too small to develop by itself as the cost of bringing utilities to the tract would be prohibitive.

With this in mind he began to buy land in the area from any and all that would sell.

Today the area which was named Surf Pines Beach in 1950 has three and a half miles of ocean frontage. It has more ocean frontage than Seaside, Oregon, long regarded as the largest resort city on the Oregon Coast.

From 1945 to 1950 while Lucas was acquiring the land for Surf Pines he was busy with a tree planting program of his own. With the cooperation of the State Soil Conservation program and the able assistance of its director in Clatsop County, Bryson Lausch, he planted over 500,000 pine trees and sctoch broom. Today many of those pines have reach a height of twenty feet.

The fourth and final stage of the Surf Pines Story began in 1950. It began with the birth of the name Surf Pines. No name in Oregon is more indicative of an area or more descriptive of its surroundings. It fits like a glove now but it took the entire Lucas fainly many sessions to come up with this outstanding name.

Once named, however, Surf Pines was off with a flourish. Lucas moved in heavy equipment from Neah-Kah-Nie where he had just completed a five year development project. Roads were built, utilities were brought into the tract and a ~~large home was started for himself~~ couple of homes were started.

A central water system was constructed, sales were brisk and best of all people began to build.

Today Surf Pines has eighteen homes, over four miles of black top and oil roads, two complete water systems, and this year opened a new section which is declared to be the first on the Oregon Coast with all utilities underground.

Surf Pines' crowning glory can be seen in the Spring just before Easter. It is then that the daffodils are in bloom. A few years back lucas had planted over 50,000 daffodil builbs throughout the area. These have grown and multiplied until today it has become a must to drive into Surf Pines to see these glorious flowers in bloom.

An added thrill is to see the deer. It is estimated there are over two hundred deer at Surf Pines. The area is closed to all hunting and the deer have become increasingly tame through the years. As many as eighteen deer have been seen grazing in one herd. Quail and Chunker Partridge have been raised and released at Surf Pines where they take their place along withe large number of China pheasants.

A mention or Surf Pines must include a word about the wonderful clamming to be had anywhere on the Surf Pines Beach. This is the beach where the commercial clam diggers congregate on a good tide because it is recognized as the best clamming beach on the entire Oregon Coast.

Surf Pines is no longer a dream. It is a completed, fully developed beach community that is already recognized as the finest development of its kind on the Oregon Coast.

Steve:
If you want to make a personal pitch on why you have used Surf Pine in your Post stories
fine!